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416 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 APR 2000

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Case 7042R

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Divisional Application of:
FRANCIS JAMES ROURKE ET AL.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified application.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-20.

Please add the following new claims:

21. An absorbent article, at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor having an IC_{50} of 30 μM or less, as measured by a Purified Protease Method.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the IC_{50} is from 0.00001 μM to 10 μM .

23. The article of claim 21, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a serine protease inhibitor, a metalloprotease inhibitor, a cysteine protease inhibitor, an aspartyl protease inhibitor, and mixtures thereof.